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imagery analysis report

Czechoslovakian Mobilization Units (S)



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CZECHOSLOVAKIAN MOBILIZATION UNITS (S)**INTRODUCTION**

1. (S/D) This report, covering the period from December 1972 through December 1981, provides the first comprehensive analysis of mobilization divisions in the Czechoslovakian People's Army (CPA). This detailed analysis revealed that a mobilization division previously reported with the 1st Tank Division* is a mobilization tank division. The maneuver elements of the mobilization tank division were located. Also, a mobilization division previously reported with the 4th Tank Division is a mobilization motorized rifle division (MRD). The maneuver elements of this MRD were located. A possible mobilization MRD forming with the 3rd MRD was tentatively identified, and four additional mobilization units—two tank regiments, a reconnaissance battalion, and an antiaircraft artillery (AAA) regiment—were identified in the Eastern Military District (MD). Included in this report are three maps, eight annotated photographs, and a table listing the CPA mobilization divisions, their major maneuver elements, their locations, and their key pieces of equipment identified from imagery.

*All specific unit designators are from referenced document 1.

Table 1.
Czechoslovakian Mobilization Units

This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL

Unit Type	Location and BE No	Key Equipment
Unidentified Mobilization TD Collocated With 1st TD, 1st Army (Figure 1)		
Tk regt	Rakovnik AB Dukla 1 [REDACTED]	73 tanks, 4 MT-55s
Tk regt	Dobricany Military Inst [REDACTED]	108 tanks, 6 MT-55s
Tk regt	Horovice AB SE [REDACTED]	96 heavy tanks, 4 MT-55s
MRR	Louny AB 1 [REDACTED]	34 prob OT-65 APCs, 17 OT-62 APCs, 43 prob APCs, 40 tanks, 4 AM-50s
FROG bn	Terezin AB 001 [REDACTED]	2 20-ton trailers

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SECRET**Table 1 (continued)**

Unit Type	Location and BE No	Key Equipment
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Unidentified Mobilization MRD Collocated With 4th TD, 4th Army (Figure 4)

MRR	Jindrichuv Hradec AB Zizkove 1 [redacted]	59 OT-62s, 38 tanks 4 AM-50s	25X1
MRR	Jihlava Training Area 405 [redacted]	60-80 OT-810s, 40 tanks, 4 AM-50s	25X1
MRR	Znojmo Firing Range [redacted]	47 OT-64s, 42 tanks	25X1
Tk regt	Caslav Vehicle Park [redacted]	89 tanks, 5 MT-55s	25X1
Recon bn	Jindrichuv Hradec AB Zizkove 1 [redacted]	10 PT-76s	25X1
FROG bn	Milovice/Jirice AB [redacted]	3 20-ton trailers	25X1

Unidentified Possible Mobilization MRD Collocated With 3rd MRD, 4th Army (Figure 8)

MRR	Hodonin AB 001 [redacted]	36 OT-65s, howitzer bn, poss tank bn, 4 AM-50s	25X1
MRR	Mikulov AB 1 [redacted]	25 OT-64s, 8 tanks, 6 M-53/59 SPAA guns	25X1
MRR	Uherske Hradiste AB Zizka 001 [redacted]	34 OT-64s, 4 AM-50s, 6 M-53/59s	25X1
Tk regt	Kromeriz AB Rybalkovy 2 [redacted]	At least 81 tanks, shed space for 160 vehicles	25X1

Eastern MD Mobilization Units (Figure 8)

Tk regt	Kezmarok Mil Instl E [redacted]	At least 67 tanks, 4 MT-34s	25X1
Tk regt	Levice AB Milan Hozda 2 [redacted]	Unit mixed with active tank regt; at least of 136 tanks, 4 MT-55s, 3 MT-34s, 25 OT-810s sheds for another 120 vehicles	25X1
Recon bn	Levice AB Milan Hozda 2 [redacted]	12 tanks, 14 prob OT-810s	25X1
AAA regt	Nitra AB Podzoborom [redacted]	28 57mm AA guns S-60	25X1

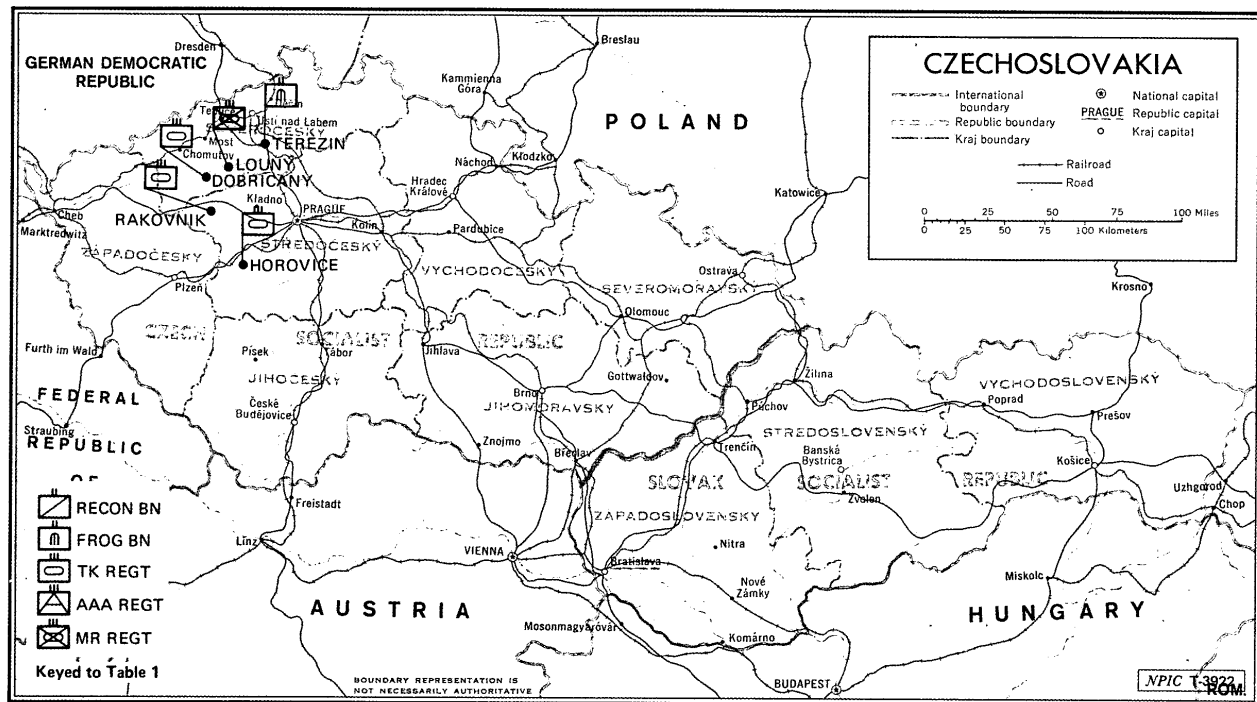


FIGURE 1. LOCATION OF MOBILIZATION TANK DIVISION WITH THE 1ST TANK DIVISION, 1ST ARMY, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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2. (S/D) Czechoslovakian mobilization units are units in conserved status, having most of their major pieces of equipment but almost no personnel. Of the 14 identified maneuver regiments, nine are collocated with active ground force units, two are within 2 nautical miles (nm) of an associated ground force unit, and three are separately located. The mobilization units are inactive in peacetime and would probably be manned by reservists in wartime. It is probable that the associated active divisions—the 1st Tank Division, 4th Tank Division, and possibly the 3rd MRD—are responsible for maintaining the equipment of the mobilization divisions in their areas.

Mobilization Tank Division With 1st Tank Division, 1st Army

3. (S/D) A mobilization tank division is with the 1st Tank Division. (Figure 1 shows the locations of mobilization tank division units with the 1st Tank Division, 1st Army.) The tank regiment at Rakovnik is with the 2nd Tank Regiment in a separately secured area of the installation. The tank regiments at Dobricany (Figure 2) and Horovice are at separate installations in the 1st Tank Division area. NPIC previously reported that the motorized rifle regiment (MRR) at Louny was a reserve unit with the 3rd MRR, 1st Tank Division. By June 1979, however, equipment in the MRR had been moved to a separately secured area outside the main installation (Figure 3). It is now possible to identify this equipment as being for a mobilization MRR.

4. (S) Collateral sources¹ identified a FROG battalion at Terezin.

Mobilization MRD With the 4th Tank Division, 4th Army

5. (S/D) A mobilization MRD is with the 4th Tank Division. (Figure 4 shows the locations of mobilization MRD units with the 4th Tank Division, 4th Army.) NPIC previously reported a mobilization tank regiment at Jindrichuv. However, since the arrival of 59 OT-62 armored personnel carriers (APCs) and four AM-50 truck-launched bridges in September 1980, it is now possible to identify the unit as a mobilization MRR. The 7th Tank Regiment and 4th Reconnaissance Battalion for the 4th Tank Division are also housed at Jindrichuv. The mobilization reconnaissance battalion is parked in open storage within the vehicle park of the 4th Reconnaissance Battalion. The mobilization MRR at Jihlava (Figure 5) has been present since at least 1978 but was not previously reported. This installation also houses elements of the 8th Tank Regiment.

6. (S/D) NPIC previously reported that the mobilization MRR at Znojmo Firing Range (Figure 6) was an element of the 9th MRR housed at Znojmo Army Barracks Mala 3 [redacted] 25X1
However, BMP APCs recently replaced OT-64s at Znojmo Mala 3 with no corresponding replacement in the conserved unit at Znojmo Firing Range. This APC replacement indicates that the unit at the firing range is a mobilization MRR.

7. (S/D) The mobilization tank regiment at Caslav Vehicle Park is in a secured open storage area (Figure 7). Caslav contains reserve storage capacity for approximately 300 vehicles and houses possible mobilization support units. NPIC previously identified a mobilization tank regiment with the 13th Tank Regiment at Caslav Army Barracks Prokopa Holeho 002 ([redacted]) 500 meters 25X1

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northwest of Caslav Vehicle Park. This identification was based on the presence of two tank battalions in open conserved storage.

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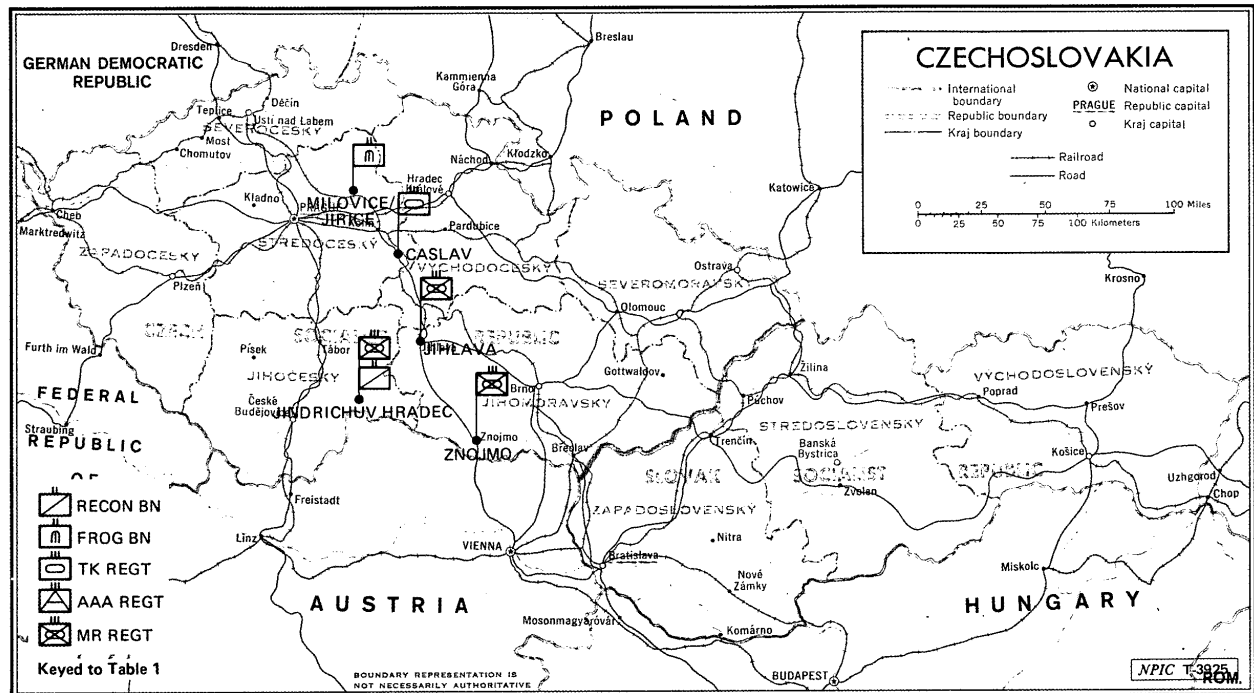


FIGURE 4. LOCATION OF MOBILIZATION MRD WITH THE 4TH TANK DIVISION, 4TH ARMY

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Possible Mobilization MRD With 3rd MRD, 4th Army

8. (S/D) The presence of a mobilization MRD with the 3rd MRD, 4th Army, has not been confirmed. However, while the activity observed in this division may be the result of atypical equipment storage patterns, it may also indicate a forming mobilization MRD. (Figure 8 shows possible mobilization MRD units with the 3rd MRD, 4th Army.)

9. (S/D) A mix of OT-64 and -65 APCs, eight AM-50s, and two howitzer battalions at Hodonin have indicated that some of the equipment may constitute a mobilization MRR. Only one type of APC, four AM-50s, and one howitzer battalion are normally in CPA MRRs. Beginning in August 1978, the 5th MRR at Mikulov was reequipped with BMP APCs, and the old OT-64 APCs

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were moved to an open storage area within the installation. By August 1979, 25 OT-64s—parked with eight tanks and six M-53/59 self-propelled antiaircraft (SPAA) guns—were still in the open storage area. It is unusual for replaced equipment to remain at an installation for a year. Possibly, this equipment is the nucleus for a mobilization MRR.

10. (S/D) The 6th MRR at Uherske Hradiste has been present since at least 1973. Sufficient covered storage for the MRR's equipment has always existed. Since early 1980, however, one motorized rifle battalion, an SPAA battery, and four AM-50s have been parked on one of the parade fields in this installation (Figure 9). While it is possible that the equipment belongs to the 6th MRR, the reason for moving the vehicles out of covered storage has not been determined.

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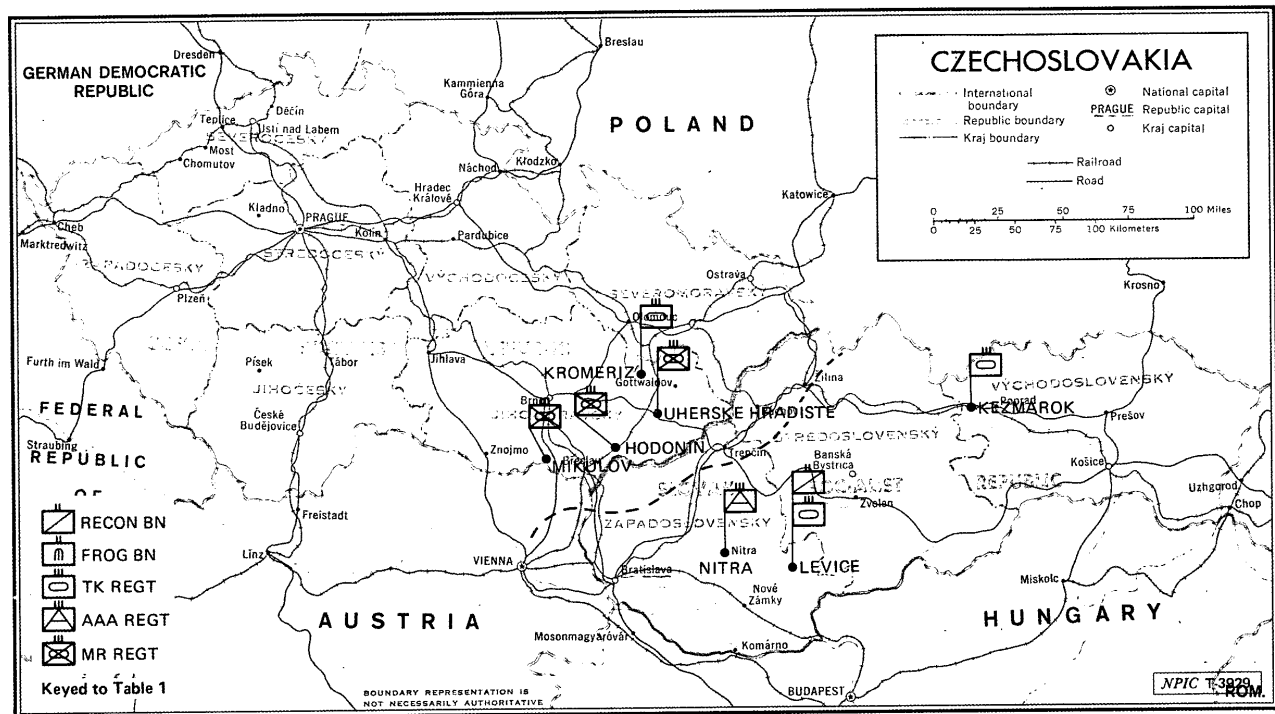


FIGURE 8. LOCATION OF POSSIBLE MOBILIZATION MRD WITH THE 3RD MRD, 4TH ARMY, AND MOBILIZATION UNITS IN THE EASTERN MD

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11. (S/D) The tank regiment for the 3rd MRD is at Koucourevec Army Barracks 1 [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] The mobilization tank regiment for the possible mobilization MRD is not at this installation; it is 25 nm northeast, at Kromeriz (Figure 10), and has been present since at least 1974. Equipment for an additional tank regiment is in conserved storage at Koucourevec, but it is not part of a mobilization unit. The 23rd Tank Regiment—housed at Koucourevec—appears to have a training function, and the additional equipment is probably intended for wartime reserve. The presence of a confirmed tank regiment at Kromeriz suggests a mobilization MRD with the 3rd MRD. The other mobilization units in the Western MD are organized into divisions, and it is possible that the recent developments in the MRRs of the 3rd MRD indicate a move toward operating a previously planned mobilization MRD.

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Eastern MD Mobilization Units

12. (S/D) Possibly, the Eastern MD mobilization units are the core elements for a mobilization tank division in the Eastern MD. The mobilization tank regiment at Kezmarok is with the 60th Tank Regiment, 14th Tank Division (Figure 11). Ground photography shows that the tank storage sheds are occupied and that four older MT-34 tank-launched bridges are present as well as four newer MT-55 tank-launched bridges.³ Their presence indicates that two tank regiments occupy the installation, since four tank-launched bridges are a signature for a CPA tank regiment.

13. (S/D) The mobilization tank regiment at Levice is with the 54th Tank Regiment. The Category III status of the 54th Tank Regiment makes it difficult to distinguish between the two units; however, at least 136 tanks, four MT-55s, three MT-34s, and 25 OT-810 APCs are present, as well as covered storage for another 120 vehicles. The mobilization reconnaissance battalion is within a secured enclosure in the vehicle park housing the 13th Reconnaissance Battalion, 13th Tank Division. The mobilization AAA regiment at Nitra is with the AAA regiment for the 13th Tank Division.

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REFERENCES

IMAGERY

(S/D) All satellite imagery acquired from December 1972 through December 1981 was used in the preparation of this report.

DOCUMENTS

1. DIA. DDB-1100-CZ-80, *Ground Order of Battle: Czechoslovakia (U)*, Aug 80 (SECRET)
2. DoD. IIR 2 218 6766 80, *Caslav: 13th Tank Regiment*, 28 Oct 80 (CONFIDENTIAL)
3. DIA Ground Photographs 19-G and 20-G, 6 824 5108 79/C/30, May 79 (CONFIDENTIAL)

(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted]
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